

WEEK 9: ECCLESIASTES
DAY 1: THE PREACHER'S SUBJECT

1. Today we begin the study of Ecclesiastes. It is the fourth book in the books of songs. The first three are Job, Psalms, and Proverbs. The name of the book means Preacher. Many people believe that Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes. Remember the last lesson from Proverbs.

In Proverbs 30:5, what is God to those who put their trust in Him? _____

In the last chapter of Proverbs, praise for the good woman comes from where?

(1) _____ (2) _____

(3) _____

2. God is a shield to those who trust in Him. Praise for the good woman comes from her husband, her children, and her works.

The beginning of Ecclesiastes is very different from Proverbs. King Solomon married many wives who worshipped idols. They turned Solomon's heart away from God. Also, Solomon began to trust in his riches instead of God. Today we learn:

In Ecclesiastes, the preacher's subject was: Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.

Take your Bible now and read Ecclesiastes 1:1 to 9. Read verse 1 again. From this verse, who wrote Ecclesiastes? _____

3. Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes. The book gives a picture of a man without God. Solomon no longer had fellowship with God. He had become an old man. The preacher gave his subject.

Ecclesiastes 1:2:

... vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

He says that life is nothing but air. Life is empty. It is useless. This is the meaning of vanity.

When a person says these things about life, do you think he has peace in his heart? _____

4. We will talk about this together. It does not seem to me that a person with peace in his heart will talk this way. In the book of Psalms we often read the words: rejoice, sing, shout for joy, praise God, trust in Him. Ecclesiastes says that life is nothing. All of life is vanity.

Who wrote more than 75 of the Psalms? _____

5. The father of Solomon who was David wrote many of the Psalms. But Solomon did not write like his father. The writings in the beginning of Ecclesiastes are different from the Psalms.

Ecclesiastes 1:2:

Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

As the preacher begins he says that how much of life is vanity? _____

6. He says that all of life is vanity. It is nothing but air. It is useless. This book shows how life looks to one who does not have fellowship with God.

Who said, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity"? _____

7. The preacher (or Solomon) said that all is vanity. Life has no fruit. It is useless. In Ecclesiastes, the word which is used most is "vanity."

Did the preacher have fellowship with God when he wrote that all of life is useless? _____

8. He did not have fellowship with God. There was no praise in his heart. His subject was: Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

What is the meaning of the word, vanity? _____

9. There are three or four things you might have said. Vanity means something that is useless. It is nothing but air. It is empty. It has nothing good about it. The Preacher's subject was: Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

If your pastor preached this kind of sermon, would it make you feel encouraged or discouraged? _____

10. We would all feel discouraged if we heard this kind of sermon. Why did Solomon feel this way in his heart? Why did he feel that all of life was vanity? It was because he had turned away from God. He was worshipping idols. He was the king of Israel. He had great power but he was not happy.

In Ecclesiastes 1:2, Solomon said that all is what? _____

11. He said that all is vanity. If you can, write all of the preacher's subject now. Look at your Bible if you need to. But later you must write it without looking.

In Ecclesiastes 1:2, what was the preacher's subject? _____

12. **The preacher's subject was: Vanity of vanities! All is vanity. Every heart that has known God and turned back to sin understands this. He sees that life without God is empty. It is nothing. We plant. We reap. The next year we do the same things. Nothing seems to change. Life is empty.**

Perhaps you know a person who began to follow God but has gone back to the things of the world. Is he happy? _____

13. **He may seem to be happy. But he cannot be truly happy in sin. The Apostle Paul understood the meaning of vanity.**

Ephesians 4:17:

You must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility (or vanity) of their minds.

Sin makes people's lives empty. Solomon had become king after Saul and David. At first he was a strong ruler. But now we hear him preaching a different message.

In Ecclesiastes 1:2, he says that all is what? _____

14. **All is vanity. Solomon had been given great wisdom by God. He had built a very beautiful temple where the people of Israel worshipped God. He had ruled well for many years. Then he allowed sin to come into his life. When sin comes into our lives, our prayers no longer have power.**

Matthew 6:7:

And in praying do not heap up empty phrases (or words of vanity) as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Jesus said the people should not heap up what kind of words when they prayed? _____

15. **They should not heap up empty words or word of vanity. Our prayers become empty when our hearts turn away from God. The things we say to other people about God are empty too. People who know us can see the difference in our lives. Jesus repeated these words from the Old Testament.**

Matthew 15:8:

This people honors me with their lips but their heart is far from me.

In Ecclesiastes 1:2, what was the preacher's subject? _____

16. **The preacher said: Vanity of vanities! All is vanity. This was his subject. What do you think we can learn from a book which has this subject?**

17. Let us talk about this together.

In Ecclesiastes 1:2, what was the preacher's subject? _____

WEEK 9: ECCLESIASTES
DAY 2: THE PREACHER'S PROBLEM

1. Yesterday we began our study of the book of Ecclesiastes.

In Ecclesiastes 1:2, what was the Preacher's subject? _____

2. The preacher's subject was: Vanity of vanities! All is vanity. We are surprised to hear him say this. We know he must have had a problem. Let us learn his problem today. The name "Solomon" meant "peace." In the book we are studying now, Solomon changed his name. He called himself the preacher.

His problem was that he could not find peace while he was separated from God.

Take your Bible now and read Ecclesiastes 1:12 to 18. Did Solomon have peace as he wrote these words? _____

3. It does not seem that he did. He could not call himself Solomon because Solomon means peace. He did not have peace now. At the time he wrote Ecclesiastes, he was worshipping idols. He was worshipping other gods. This is why life had no meaning to him.

I Corinthians 8:4:

An idol has no real existence (or life) ... there is no God but one.

The preacher was searching for peace. Can other gods give peace? _____

4. Of course other gods cannot give peace. The preacher's problem was that he could not find peace while he was separated from God.

Solomon had built a great temple. The people of Israel were worshipping God in it. The temple cost very much money. It had taken seven years to build it.

But if we worship anything besides God, we are not worshipping Him. What was Solomon worshipping? _____

5. Solomon, the preacher, was worshipping other gods. A church is a place that should bring light and peace to all people. But Solomon no longer had light or peace in his heart. He had darkness. He had separated himself from the only one who could give him peace.

I Kings 11:4:

For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God.

The preacher had separated himself from whom? _____

6. He had separated himself from God. Ecclesiastes gives a picture of a man without God. This man had a great problem. His problem was that he could not find peace while he was separated from God.

Who had separated himself from God? _____

7. The preacher (Solomon) had separated himself from God. But he wanted peace. The hearts of all men cry out for peace. But we cannot have peace as long as we are separated from God.

The people of Israel talked about peace in Jeremiah's day. God had warned them about their sins. But they lied and said they had peace.

Jeremiah 6:14:

They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, "Peace, peace, when there is no peace.

Because Solomon had no peace, he called himself by a different name. What did he call himself? _____

8. He called himself the preacher. The preacher had a problem.

The preacher's problem was that he could not find what? _____

9. The preacher's problem was that he could not find peace. But he wanted peace while he was separated from God. There was peace in the land, but there was no peace in his heart.

Ecclesiastes 1:3:

What does man gain by all the toil (or work) at which he toils under the sun?

Is it possible for a person to have true peace while he is separated from God?

10. We know that only God can give us peace. The preacher says in Ecclesiastes that work is useless. But he had said in Proverbs that in all work there is good.

Proverbs 14:23:

In all toil (or work) there is profit (or good).

Ecclesiastes 1:13:

it is an unhappy business (or work) that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with.

What was the preacher's problem? His problem was that he could not find peace while he was what? _____

11. The preacher's problem was that he could not find peace while he was separated from God. Work alone could not bring peace. In his first years as king, Solomon worked as a servant of God. This brought him peace and riches. Now Solomon had left God out of his life. Therefore, his work seemed useless.

Have you ever known a sinner who tried to cover his sins by working hard doing many good things? _____

12. Perhaps you said Yes. There are some people like that. But see what Paul said.

The preacher had separated himself from God. He had turned to other gods. All his work was empty. It brought him no good.

What was the preacher's problem? What did he not have while he was separated from God? _____

13. The preacher did not have peace. Satan is God's enemy. He is always trying to turn people away from God. Solomon had been the wisest of all kings. Then he allowed Satan to deceive him. Remember what Solomon had said when he was a young king.

Proverbs 14:34:

... sin is a reproach (or it brings shame) to any people.

What was the preacher's problem? _____

14. The preacher's problem was: He could not find peace while he was separated from God. Solomon had lost his peace. We know that we cannot have peace while we are separated from God. Solomon knew this too. But he was worshipping idols instead of God.

Do you sometimes feel that life is useless? _____

What can you do at such a time? _____

15. We will talk about this together.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, what was the preacher's problem? _____

WEEK 9: ECCLESIASTES

DAY 3: THE PREACHER'S QUESTION

1. The preacher's subject was: Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

What was the preacher's problem? _____

2. The problem was that he could not find peace while he was separated from God. The word used most often in the book of Ecclesiastes is "vanity." It is used 37 times in the book. We shall continue to see this in today's lesson.

(1) The big question which the preacher asked was:

Can life be happy through what I do?

(2) His own answer was: No. All is vanity.

Take your Bible now and read Ecclesiastes 2:1 to 11. Think of all the things the preacher did to make himself happy. Can the things of earth completely satisfy us?

3. A person cannot be satisfied by the things of this world alone. The more he gets, the more he wants. The preacher searched for happiness in things "under the sun." This means things in this world. When he did this, he did not seem to follow the wisdom which he had.

Who had given Solomon great wisdom? _____

4. God had given him great wisdom. All true wisdom comes from God. But Solomon had separated himself from God.

The preacher tried to find happiness in enjoying himself and in drinking. But these did not satisfy him.

Ecclesiastes 2:3:

I searched with my mind how to cheer my body with wine -- my mind still guiding me with wisdom -- and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven during the few days of their life.

Can life be happy through what I do? _____

5. The preacher (or Solomon) asked this. You remember he said in Ecclesiastes 1 that there is nothing new under the sun. People are born and then they die. The sun rises, sets and then rises again. The wind blows round and round. It arrives nowhere. Rivers empty their water into the sea but the sea never gets full. It will just keep on going like this.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-5:

I made great works; I built houses and planted vineyards for myself; I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees.

The preacher looked for something new. But he was still unhappy. He asked; Can life be happy through what I do?

Whom had the preacher forgotten, so that he asked this question?

6. He had forgotten God. It was God who created the sun, wind, and water. He created us. It is his power and wisdom that control the things of earth. Still the preacher searched.

Ecclesiastes 2:7:

I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house; I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem.

Did these things make the preacher feel life was worth living? _____

7. These things did not make life happy. The preacher said that all is vanity. It is like chasing the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:8:

I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces; I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines (or wives).

All these things did not make the preacher feel life was happy. He had many things and he did not trust God.

But what great man did we study who lost everything and still trusted God?

8. I am sure you remember Job. Job said he would trust God even if God took his life. Solomon had loved God in the beginning. Now Solomon was trusting in himself and his own power. He asked: Can life be happy through what I do?

Look again in your Bible at Ecclesiastes 2:1 to 8. Count the number of times Solomon said I, me, or myself. How many times do you find these words?

9. Solomon spoke of himself about 24 times. He did not speak of God even one time. He searched for happiness in pleasure, in drinking, in building, in music, and in riches. When we read about the music, we remember how David played for King Saul. This helped him for only a short time.

Ecclesiastes 2:9:

So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom remained with me.

But he did not say anything about God. What does this show you about Solomon?

10. We will talk about your answer together. One thing it shows is that Solomon was selfish. Solomon was tired of life. When a person lives only for himself, his life soon become empty. All is vanity. All is useless.

What big question did the preacher ask? _____

11. He asked: Can life be happy through what I do? Then see what he said.

Ecclesiastes 2:11:

Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

Did the preacher answer his own question? _____

12. He answered his own question. In his selfishness he had no happiness. God says that selfishness is sin. Where there is sin, there cannot be joy and peace. That is why the preacher asked the big question: Can life be happy through what I do? And that is why his own answer was: No. All is vanity.

Matthew 16:25:

For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

What did Jesus say will happen to my life if I try to save it? _____

13. Jesus said that if I try to save my life, I will lose it.

What big question did the preacher ask? _____

What was his own answer? _____

14. The big question was: Can life be happy through what I do? His own answer: No. All is vanity.

But those who continue to love and obey God find life good. Solomon was selfish and no longer depended on God. Now read the words of one who depended on God.

Nehemiah 8:10:

The joy of the Lord is your strength.

Nehemiah taught his people that they would find strength in what? _____

15. They would find strength in the joy of the Lord. Rejoicing in the Lord would make them strong. They would find life good. They would be happy. The preacher had lost his joy in the Lord.

What big question did the preacher ask? _____

What was his own answer? _____

16. The big question was: Can life be happy through what I do? His own answer was: No. All is vanity.

The preacher had been a man of great wisdom. Now he was full of doubts. Perhaps you too are tempted to doubt. Remember that as we turn to God He helps us. The preacher was not the only one who doubted. There were other doubters in the Bible.

Matthew 14:30:

but when he (Peter) saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord save me."

John 20:24:

But he (Thomas) said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Perhaps it would help you if you confessed your doubts. If you like, write something which you are tempted to question or to doubt.

17. Perhaps the class can help you answer and pray about this.

What big question did the preacher ask? _____

What was his own answer? _____

WEEK 9: ECCLESIASTES
DAY 4: LIFE AFTER DEATH

1. From yesterday's lesson, what big question did the preacher ask? _____

What was his own answer? _____

2. The preacher's big question was: Can life be happy through what I do? His own answer was: No. All is vanity.

In Proverbs Solomon had written much about wisdom. He praised wisdom in every way. Now in Ecclesiastes he began to say that even wisdom is empty. Solomon had all the power, honour, and riches anyone could want. Yet he felt that all was vanity. Part of the reason for this was his own separation from God. We shall learn another part of the reason today.

- (1) Ecclesiastes shows that the people of Israel in the Old Testament did not have a clear understanding of life after death.
- (2) This understanding came only through Christ.

Take your Bible now and read Ecclesiastes 2:12-21. Read verse 16 again. What does the wise man do just as the fool does? _____

3. The wise man dies. The preacher said he dies just like the fool. The preacher compared the wise man and the foolish man. One was no better than the other. In the end, both would die and be forgotten.

Ecclesiastes 2:14-15:

The wise man has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness; and yet I perceived (or saw) that one fate comes to all of them. Then I said to myself, "What befalls the fool will befall me also; why then have I been so very wise?" And I said to myself that this also is vanity.

Do wisdom, riches and power satisfy spiritual hunger? _____

4. Only faith in God can satisfy spiritual hunger. Solomon had been a good king in Israel. He had had great faith in God. Remember what he said in Proverbs.

Proverbs 8:36:

he who misses me (wisdom or Christ) injures himself; all who hate me love death.

Do you think this verse shows that God had given Solomon some knowledge of eternal life? _____

5. We can talk about this together. It seems to me that it does. The people of Israel did not have a clear understanding of this until Christ came. But God began in the Old Testament to show His people some truths about life after death. You know this very important verse.

John 3:16:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

God sent Christ so that people would not have death, but have what? _____

6. They would have life. It would be eternal life. But the people did not understand this at first. It was not until Christ came that they clearly understood.

What people did not clearly understand life after death in the Old Testament?

7. This was the people of Israel. God was teaching them. He was working with them. But it took a long time to show them everything. They had to be led slowly. They did not have a clear understanding of life. This was one reason why life seemed so empty. It seemed to end so sadly.

The people of Israel in the Old Testament did not have a clear understanding of life after what?

8. The problem was life after death. You remember that Job asked whether a man would live again after he died. Later he said that even though his body died he would see God. Christ came and brought clear understanding.

John 3:36:

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him.

The people of Israel in the Old Testament did not have a clear understanding of what?

9. They did not have a clear understanding of life after death. The book of Ecclesiastes shows us this. Solomon had separated himself from God. He began to worship idols. At one time he said this.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-18:

I hated life ... I hated my toil (or work).

Solomon saw life as nothing but work and trouble. Life was empty. But his father, David did not hate life.

Psalms 100:1-2:

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Why do you think Solomon was not singing and praising God when he wrote Ecclesiastes?

10. We will hear your answer in class. Solomon could not sing. He had no joy. He had stopped serving God. He was serving idols.

Do idols bring life after death? _____

11. Idols do not bring eternal life. They can only lead to sorrow, troubles, and eternal death.

Ecclesiastes shows that the people of Israel in the Old Testament did not have a clear understanding of what? _____

12. They did not clearly understand life after death. They knew something about it. You remember that Job said some things about life after death.

Job 19:26:

And after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh (or without my flesh) I shall see God.

John 11:25-26:

Jesus said ... "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

In the New Testament, who taught the people of Israel clearly about life after death? _____

13. Jesus did this. The people who love and follow Christ do not hate life. They love the work which God has given them, as Paul did. See what Paul wrote about this.

2 Timothy 4:7-8:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day.

Does it seem that Paul hated his life? _____

Did he understand Christ's words about life after death? _____

14. Paul did not hate his life. He had a clear understanding about life after death. He knew that he had eternal life. He knew that he would receive a crown of righteousness some day. He knew that all who love Christ will receive a reward when Christ returns.

Ecclesiastes shows that the people of Israel in the Old Testament did not have a clear understanding of what? _____

15. They did not have a clear understanding of life after death. Then someone came. He brought true wisdom about many things. He left us a very wonderful promise.

John 14:1-3:

Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Through whom did the clear understanding of life after death come to the people of Israel?

16. This understanding came through Christ. We can have life after death. We can have eternal life. Christ said that He went to prepare a place for us. We should praise Him for this great hope which His children have.

Think about these questions. Do you hate life? Does all your work seem empty and useless? If so, find a quiet place to pray. Ask God to take the idols out of your heart. Ask Him to make you a new person and fill you with His Holy Spirit. If you need help ask other Christians to pray with you. Then you can love life and rejoice in your work.

17. Ecclesiastes shows that the people of Israel in the Old Testament did not have a clear understanding of what? _____

Through whom did the clear understanding come? _____

WEEK 9: ECCLESIASTES

DAY 5: ALL PEOPLE MUST DEPEND ON GOD

1. Ecclesiastes shows that the people of Israel in the Old Testament did not have a clear understanding of what? _____

Through whom did this clear understanding come? _____

2. The people of Israel in the Old Testament did not clearly understand life after death. A clear understanding of this came through Christ. But God was teaching the people of the Old Testament. Even though Solomon turned from God he did not forget all his wisdom. He still knew that God rules over everything and everyone. Today we shall learn from Ecclesiastes that:

All people must
depend on God.

Take your Bible now and read Ecclesiastes 3:10 to 17. Read verse 11 again. Who has put eternity or hope for unending life into man's mind? _____

3. God has done this. He has given each of us the knowledge in our hearts that there is more than this life. Remember that God created us. He made the world and all that is in it. In Ecclesiastes 3 the preacher says that there is a time for everything. God put everything in good order. If man does not obey God, man suffers because of it.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck (or pull) up what is planted.

When a king disobeys God, does the king suffer because he has disobeyed, or does God excuse him because he is a king? _____

4. The king suffers because he has disobeyed. Living for oneself will spoil even a king. This leads us to our teaching for today: All people must depend on God.

Ecclesiastes 3:11:

He has made everything beautiful in its time; also he has put eternity into man's mind, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Can a man understand all of God's ways? _____

5. We cannot understand all of God's ways. His ways are higher than our ways. So we must depend on Him. Solomon was trying to take his own way. He forgot what God had said through Moses many years before about remembering God. Moses told the people that they would soon end their journey through the desert. They would go into the land of Canaan. In Canaan they would find good land, homes, water, and food.

Deuteronomy 6:12:

Then take heed (or be careful) lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage (or slavery).

Whom should the people not forget? _____

6. They should not forget the Lord (or God). Solomon forgot God when he became rich. This made him feel that life is useless. But when he thought carefully, he still knew that God's ways are above man's ways.

Ecclesiastes 3:14:

I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has made it so, in order that men should fear before him.

When we think how God's ways are above man's ways, on whom must all people depend? _____

7. All people must depend on God. If we are rich or poor, kings or servants, we need God. The preacher goes on to say that there are wicked judges in this world. They do not judge in the right way. But in the end, there will be a judge who will judge all people rightly.

Ecclesiastes 3:16-17:

Moreover I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for he has appointed a time for every matter, and for every work.

Who will judge all people both the righteous and the wicked? _____

8. God will judge all people. He will judge the righteous and the wicked. Therefore all people must depend on Him. We must remember the warning which Moses gave. We must not let anything which we gain separate us from God as Solomon did. After talking about the great Judge, Solomon again began to say that life is useless.

Ecclesiastes 3:18:

I said in my heart with regard to the sons of men that God is testing them to show them that they are but beasts (or animals).

Solomon was trying to understand God's ways. Did he understand them clearly? _____

9. He did not understand clearly. He said that people and animals are just the same. But we know that man was made in the image of God. His spirit will live forever. See the difference between what the preacher said and what David said in the Psalms.

Ecclesiastes 3:19:

For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts; for all is vanity.

Psalms 49:15:

But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol (or death), for he will receive me.

Is it people, or animals, who will be saved? _____

10. God does not judge the animals or save them. He saves only people. People cannot save themselves. They must depend on God. The New Testament also tells us that we are different from animals. Our spirits will live forever.

John 10:28:

And I give them (those who believe) eternal life, and they shall never perish.

How many people must depend on God? _____

11. All people must do this. It is surprising that the preacher never wrote about the past of the people of Israel. He never named Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob. He never told how God brought the people of Israel out of Egypt. He did not say that it was God who gave them the land of Canaan. It seems that instead of depending on God, he was depending on riches, power, and wisdom. Yet he knew that God's ways are higher than man's.

Ecclesiastes 6:10:

Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is, and that he is not able to dispute with one stronger than he.

All people must do what? _____

12. All people must depend on God. Solomon says that if we make a promise we should keep it. We should help poor people. We should not love money. We should do our work well. All these words are good. But if we have a kind of worship that is only on the outside, it is useless. Solomon still said many wise and true things about God even though he had turned away from God.

Ecclesiastes 7:14:

In the day of prosperity (or success) be joyful, and in the day of adversity (or trouble) consider, God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

Whose ways are above our ways? _____

13. God's ways are above man's ways.

Ecclesiastes 8:16-17:

When I applied my mind to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night one's eyes see sleep; then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out; even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.

When we think how God's ways are above man's ways, as explained by the preacher, who must depend on God? _____

14. All people must depend on God. God has made all things for people to enjoy. It is Satan who makes life seem useless. It is Satan who takes away our joy. He changes it into sorrow. Christians must look to God daily for their victory and their joy.

Does being a king bring peace in the heart? _____

Does pretending to be a Christian bring peace and joy? _____

Explain what brings peace and joy in our lives. _____

15. We will talk about this together.

When we think how God's ways are above man's ways, as explained by the preacher, who must depend on God? _____